

Book of Mormon Holy Order vs. LDS Priesthood - Part 1

Alma makes mention of the "high priesthood of the holy order of God" a few times in chapters 4 & 13 of his record. There is no mention of high priests after Christ came in any ancient scriptures. He was termed to be, the high priest of good things to come in the book of Hebrews. He came to fulfill His self-appointed mission. The twelve disciples were also termed to be elders (I suppose chief elders). Otherwise elder, priest, and teacher are the only ordinations mentioned after Christ's appearance. There is no mention of "Melchizedek or Aaronic priesthoods" in the BoM. IMO the term high priest is used to indicate the highest priest or elder in a region or jurisdiction before Christ came, e.g. Ammon, Giddonah, etc. In chapter 13 of Alma, he makes it clear high priests were tasked with pointing people to the coming of Christ.

Even Peter, the apostle, considered himself to be an elder:

1 Peter 5:1

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

This brings us to Alma (senior) who was termed their high priest and founder of their church (Mosiah 23:16). The question is: how did he become a high priest recognized by God? Certainly wicked King Noah didn't have any power to make it so. Abinadi didn't do it.

We get a few hints in the following:

22) And the Holy Ghost giveth authority that I should speak these things, and deny them not. (1 Nephi 10)

9) But remember the iniquity of king Noah and his priests; and I myself was caught in a snare, and did many things which were abominable in the sight of the Lord, which caused me sore repentance (certainly sincere mighty prayer would have been part of that); (Mosiah 23)

2) And he called them by name, saying: Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this ye shall have power that to him upon whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles. (Moroni 2)

1) And it came to pass that as the disciples of Jesus were journeying and were preaching the things which they had both heard and seen, and were baptizing in the name of Jesus, it came to pass that the disciples were gathered together and were united in mighty prayer and fasting. (3 Nephi 27)

This tells me in these and other instances throughout the BoM, authority is given **by the Holy Ghost** directly or after an elder is directed. This only occurred after the recipients have put in the time and effort to obtain a clear indication from God that He approves them and/or their actions. Here are some references regarding the "holy order":

2) *Now we shall say no more concerning their preaching, except that they preached the word, and the truth, according to the spirit of prophecy and revelation; and they preached after the holy order of God by which they were called. (Alma 43)*

30) *Yea, and there was continual peace among them, and exceedingly great prosperity in the church because of their heed and diligence which they gave unto the word of God, which was declared unto them by Helaman, and Shiblon, and Corianton, and Ammon and his brethren, yea, and by all those who had been ordained by the holy order of God, being baptized unto repentance, and sent forth to preach among the people. (Alma 49)*

1) *The manner which the disciples, who were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers-*

2) **After they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon them**, and said:

3) *In the name of Jesus Christ **I ordain you** to be a priest, (or, if he be a teacher) I ordain you to be a teacher, **to preach repentance** and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen.*

4) *And after this manner did they ordain priests and teachers, **according to the gifts and callings of God unto men**; and **they ordained them by the power of the Holy Ghost, which was in them**. (Moroni 3)*

Doesn't the Book of Acts tell us a similar version? Here is one of many references to the Holy Ghost:

2) *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them (Acts 13)*

What do the words "holy" and "order" say to you when combined into a single phrase: "holy order"?

Book of Mormon Holy Order vs. LDS Priesthood - Part 2
November 15th, 2024

This Part 2 brings me to the point of where did the LDS claim to get their "priesthood"?

Did John the Baptist, Peter, James, & John, Moses, Elias, Elijah, etc., etc., come to earth to Smith and deliver any kind of authority, keys, or WHATEVER???!!! IMO... a resounding NO!

Did Smith have his "First Vision"? IMO... a resounding NO! Did Smith have any power or authority after having translated the BoM? IMO... a resounding NO! This concept of angels bringing authority, keys, priesthoods, etc., is a strong delusion and a system spawned by the devil to lead into captivity.

When and where did this word "priesthood" come into being in the preparatory work of taking the BoM to the Lamanites? It was inserted in the narrative by Young via sections 2 and 13 in the D&C, and also by Smith in sections 20 and 21 (when Smith officially started his fall). It was an altered "Revelation" begun by Cowdery and commandeered by Smith into which the term "priesthood" was inserted later with Smith trying to cover his tracks and ensure his church of Latter Day Saints was kept in line.

Researchers of the Smith Papers and analysis of reliable historical documents show this concept did not begin to come out until Ridgon arrived on the scene; or rather he persuaded Smith to move the group to his power-base in Kirtland. No pronouncements were made in print until Cowdery caved, and began a flowery picture (see addendum to D&C and Messenger and Advocate, vol. 1, pp. 14-16 in October of 1834) as Smith brow-beat him into making to Phelps. No manifestations were known to Smith's followers until the Morley Farm incident in November 1831 when the devil tore through the group and showed who was in power as they endeavored to self-anoint themselves as high priests! Readers of this post may want to refer to David Whitmer's An Address To All Believers In Christ (<https://archive.org/details/addresstoallbeli00whit>)

No wonder people upon finding out solid facts get disillusioned and leave all behind. Such a sad thing for people to get a valid witness from the Holy Ghost that the BoM is the word of God; and then deny the Holy Ghost by denying that witness mostly because of finger-pointing coming from the great and spacious building. We are told in the Book of Commandments (Chapters 2 -15 were given as the BoM was coming forth) that the Lamanites will not reject the BoM (when properly presented), but will build it up upon the true points of doctrine, and be accepted of the Lord. However the Gentiles will mostly reject it.

*32)Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of Hosts! For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, **they will deny me**; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto me; for mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of Hosts. (2 Nephi 28)*

The only place worldly priesthoods exist are in Masonry, Catholicism (and their ilk), LDS, RLDS, and other branches of the church of the devil. Should we lay claim to it when doing so unites us to the Whore(s) of All the Earth? Did you know there are Melchizedek and Aaronic priesthoods in Masonry? Did you know that Hyrum Smith became a mason like his father, J Smith Sr.?

The true church of Christ when properly organized won't have a priesthood. There will be elders, priests, and teachers in a holy order, and they won't be ordained until "Mighty Prayer" is made, and according to the gifts and callings of God (not a bishop, stake president, or whatever). There won't be a power seeking group to keep others under control, but a loving, unified group of worshippers of Christ (see 4 Nephi).

Here is an essay fitting on the subject by Scott Mitchell:

<https://osaywhatistruthorg.wordpress.co...> #more-1614

Even the Bible makes the point that **all** true worshippers of Christ (men and women) are part of a **spiritual** priesthood:

1 Peter 2:5

*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual** house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 2:9

*But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;*

What is to be done? I have concluded in my own life to follow these scriptures:

2 Nephi 18:17

*And **I will wait upon the Lord**, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.*

Mosiah 21:34

*Therefore they did not at that time form themselves into a church, **waiting upon the Spirit of the Lord**. Now they were desirous to become even as Alma and his brethren, who had fled into the wilderness.*

There is a marvelous work and a wonder coming.

From a personal correspondance with Matt Lohrke of bookofmormonism.com:

“Alma teaches that the office of High Priest was instituted to teach the commandments of God to the people, to let them know of Christ's future coming: "Now these ordinances (commandments, not rituals) were given after this manner, **that thereby the people might look forward on the Son of God**, it being a type of his order, or it being his order, and this

that they might look forward to him for a remission of their sins, that they might enter into the rest of the Lord." (v. 13)

But then Christ came and that changed everything. Moroni writes that in the post-resurrection Nephite church Elders, Priests and Teachers were called, but makes no mention of High Priests. He also adds: "Behold it was by faith that **they of old were called after the holy order of God**. Wherefore, by faith was the law of Moses (sacrifice) given. But in the gift of his Son hath God prepared a more excellent way; and it is by faith that it hath been fulfilled." (Ether 12:10)

This suggests to me that this particular "Holy Order of God" was preparatory and essentially ended with Christ. But that's where things get difficult because we read,

"This high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, **being without beginning of days or end of years**, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things...Now they were ordained after this manner—being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, **is without beginning or end—Thus they become high priests forever**, after the order of the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, who is without beginning of days or end of years, who is full of grace, equity, and truth. And thus it is. Amen."

We can look at Hebrews 7 to try and gain some clarity on the issue, because their may be some Hebraic tradition/understandings of genealogy and typology. We read,

"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; **Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.**"

Modern translations, such as the ESV, read, "But resembling the son of God he remains a high priest forever."

That's almost identical language to what we find in Alma 13. "Without father or mother, without descent" simply means we have no record of Melchizedek's ancestry rather than signify a divine or immortal being. Levitical priesthood was highly reliant on pedigree, with priests having to prove their ancestry, so we're seeing the opposite of that. Melchizedek's office was typological of Christ and specifically **not** tied to lineage, which is consistent with the Book of Mormon view that the Holy Order of God was conditional on the person rather than any lineage:

"And thus **they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith**, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great

privilege as their brethren. Or in fine, **in the first place they were on the same standing with their brethren...**" (v. 4-5)

"Thus they become high priests forever" is a bit more challenging. I had to look it up because I didn't really understand it. But I think we can look at a few other specific passages from the Bible. Psalm 110:4 reads, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind. **'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'**" Psalm 110 appears to unite the role of High Priest and King, and that's how the author of Hebrews appears to understand it, making Christ the great high priest. The Book of Mormon is a little bit different because each person appointed became a "high priest forever." If Christ is the great high priest, the embodiment and manifestation of the office, why would other high priests continue to exist? And if this "priesthood" continues forever, why does it disappear from the Book of Mormon record after Christ's resurrection? My feeling is that "forever" doesn't necessarily mean "eternal" in a metaphysical, infinite sense. Instead, I think "forever" implies "permanence," "covenantal," "continual" up until the point of death. The Greek Expositor's commentary reads, "It is the permanence of the Melchisedek priesthood on which stress is laid. εἰς τὸ διηνεκές is not precisely "for ever," but **"for a continuance," or permanence.** Appian (De Bell. civ., i. 4) says of Julius Cæsar that he was created Dictator εἰς τὸ διηνεκές, permanent Dictator. 'The **permanent character of the priesthood is here described, not its actual duration**' (Rendall)." This makes sense to me because those appointed to the office were righteous and, again, the Holy Order of God disappears after the resurrection. It was a **type** that pointed to Christ. "

"...the holy order of god is not required for salvation. If we take the words of Jesus at Bountiful at face value (and I think we should) the only qualifies for salvation are 1) faith 2) repentance 3) enduring to the end.

Yes, baptism of water is a commandment and we should do it, but it's not a requirement for salvation. If it were, then salvation comes, at least in part, by works. And if that's true, then we aren't relying wholly on the merits of Jesus Christ and the atonement.

Also, "after all we can do" is a phrase we need to understand in it's literary and cultural context. Contrary to popular belief, it doesn't mean that we have to do everything we can and then God makes up the difference. It means "despite all we can do" it's by faith that we are saved. It means no matter what we do, it's never enough. This phrase is well-attested in other books from Joseph Smith's time so we can be certain of its meaning." 1/26/2026